

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00860 041721Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 BIB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
SS-15 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 DODE-00 /048 W  
-----042142Z 054433 /73

R 041345Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2389  
USIA WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS PRAGUE 0860

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CZ  
SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF WESTERN NEWSPAPERS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

REF: STATE 073640

1. RESIDENT REUTERS CORRESPONDENT TOLD PAO MARCH 31 MFA PRESS OFFICE HAS SAID TWELVE WESTERN NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN ON SALE IN PRAGUE, BRATISLAVA, BRNO AND KARLOVY VARY FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS. PAPERS INCLUDE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, FINANCIAL TIMES, SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG FROM WEST GERMANY, NEUE ZURICHE ZEITUNG FROM 25"34)-\$, DIE PRESSE OF VIENNA, LA MONDE, AND LE PEUPLE FROM BRUSSELS. EMBOFF HAS SEEN COPIES OF CUMHURIYET FROM TURKEY AND TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL AT PRAGUE AIRPORT.

2. IN PRAGUE, THE PAPERS REPORTEDLY ARE AVAILABLE IN SMALL QUANTITIES AT PNS, THE GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER SHOP IN DOWNTON PRAGUE, AND AT FOUR MAJOR HOTELS. HOWEVER, EMBOFFS HAVE HAD ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS TO DATE IN LOCATING THESE JOURNALS. IN BRATISLAVA THEY ARE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PERIODICALS STORE AND THE DEVIN AND KIEV HOTELS. THEIR BRNO AND KARLOVY VARY OUTLETS ARE NOT KNOWN.

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3. COMMENT: FOR ALMOST A YEAR THE MFA PRESS OFFICE HAS BEEN SAYING THAT NEWSPAPERS FROM COUNTRIES THAT SIGNED THE CSCE FINAL ACT WOULD SOON BE AVAILABLE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR AVAILABILITY. PRESUMABLY, THE GOC WANTS TO ADMIT ONLY A TOKEN NUMBER OF SUCH PAPERS AND TO AVOID ANY RUN ON THE NEWS STANDS IN TRYING TO KEEP ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THEM TO THE VERY MINIMUM. STILL,

IN A COUNTRY THAT GOES TO SUCH CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO AVOID  
ANYTHING BUT THE MOST CONTROLLED IMPORTATION OF WESTERN NEWS  
AND CULTURE, THIS IS A POSITIVE STEP.  
FROWICK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, PUBLICATIONS PROCUREMENT, NEWSPAPERS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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